The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A peripheral apparatus comprising:

connecting means for connecting to a host computer;

first means for, in response to a data reading request which is issued from the host computer, notifying said connecting means of response data in a case where the response data has been prepared and notifying said connecting means of the fact that a response cannot be made in a case where the response data is not prepared yet;

second means for notifying said connecting means of the absence of data to be sent in response to the data reading request which is issued from the host computer; and

switching means for switching said first means and said second means in accordance with a status of said peripheral apparatus.

Claim 2 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising second connecting means different from said connecting means, wherein, in a case of processing data from said second connecting means, said switching means switches to said second means.

Claim 3 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said connecting means is connected to the host computer through a cable which conforms with a USB standard or an IEEE1394 standard.

Claim 4 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said connecting means is connected to the host computer through a cable which conforms with a USB standard or an IEEE1394 standard, and said second connecting means is connected to the host computer through a cable which conforms with an IEEE1284 standard.

Claim 5 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first means notifies of the response data by a data packet, and said second means notifies of the fact that said response cannot be made by an Nak packet, and notifies of the absence of the data to be sent by a blank packet.

Claim 6 (original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral apparatus includes a printer.

Claim 7 (original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral apparatus includes a scanner.

Claim 8 (original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral apparatus includes a facsimile.

Claim 9 (original): An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said switching means switches to said second means at a timing when a printer engine or a scanner engine operates.

Claim 10 (original): An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said switching means switches to said second means at a timing when print data is received, a timing when a development of the print data is started, or a timing when the development of the print data is finished.

Claim 11 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said switching means switches to said second means at a timing when an engine control is performed, when the data is received, when a development of the data is started, or when the development of the data is finished, switches to said first means when an error occurs, switches to said second means when the error is recovered, and switches to said first means when a job is finished,

and after switching to said first means when the error occurs, error information is sent to said connecting means.

Claims 12 - 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): A control method for a peripheral apparatus, comprising the steps of:

when a status of the apparatus is a first status, switching a control mode to a first mode such that in response to a data reading request which is issued from a host computer, when response data has been prepared, the response data is notified, and when the response data is not prepared yet, the fact that a response cannot be made is notified; and

when the status of the apparatus is not the first status, switching the control mode to a second mode such that in response to the data reading request which is issued from the host computer, the absence of data to be sent is notified.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method according to claim 16, wherein, in a case of processing data from a second host, the control mode is switched to the second mode.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method according to claim 16, wherein the response data is notified by using a data packet, the fact that the response cannot be made is notified by using an Nak packet, and the absence of the data to be responded is notified by using a blank packet.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A method according to claim 16, wherein the control mode is switched to the second mode at a timing when a printer engine or a scanner engine operates.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method according to claim 16, wherein the control mode is switched to the second mode at a timing when print data is received, a timing when a development of the print data is started, or a timing when the development of the print data is finished.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method according to claim 16, wherein the control mode is switched to the second mode when an engine control is performed, when data is received, when a development of the data is started, or when the development of the data is finished, is switched to the first mode when an error occurs, is switched to the second mode when the error is recovered, and is switched to the first mode when a job is finished,

and after the control mode is switched to the first mode when the error occurs, error information is notified.

Claims 22 - 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (previously presented): A computer-readable memory medium which stores a program, the program comprising the steps of:

when a status of the apparatus is a first status, switching a control mode to a first mode such that in response to a data reading request which is issued from a host computer, when response data has been prepared, the response data is notified, and when the response data is not prepared yet, the fact that a response cannot be made is notified; and

when the status of the apparatus is not the first status, switching the control mode to a second mode such that in response to the data reading request which is issued from the host computer, the absence of data to be responded is notified.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A medium according to claim 26, wherein, in a case of processing data from a second host, the control mode is switched to the second mode.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A medium according to claim 26, wherein said medium stores a program such that the response data is sent by using a data packet, the fact that the response cannot be made is notified by using an Nak packet, and the absence of the data to be sent is notified by using a blank packet.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A medium according to claim 26, wherein said medium stores a program for switching the control mode to the second mode at a timing when a printer engine or a scanner engine operates.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A medium according to claim 26, wherein said medium stores a program for switching the control mode to the second mode at a timing when print data is received, a timing when a development of the print data is started, or a timing when the development of the print data is finished.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A medium according to claim 26, wherein said medium stores a program such that

the control mode is switched to the second mode when an engine control is performed, when data is received, when a development of the data is started, or when the development of the data is finished, is switched to the first mode when an error occurs, is switched to the second mode when the error is recovered from, and is switched to the first mode when a job is finished,

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and after the control mode is switched to the first mode when the error

occurs, error information is notified.

Claims 32 - 35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (previously presented): An information processing system comprising:

a host computer; and

a peripheral apparatus,

wherein said peripheral apparatus comprises:

connecting means for connecting to said host computer;

first means for, in response to a data reading request which is

issued from said host computer, notifying said connecting means of response data in the case

where the response data has been prepared and notifying said connecting means of the fact that a

response cannot be made in the case where the response data is not prepared yet;

second means for notifying said connecting means of the absence of data

to be sent in response to the data reading request which is issued from said host computer; and

switching means for switching said first means and said second means in

accordance with a status of said peripheral apparatus.

Claim 37 (canceled)

Claim 38 (previously presented): A peripheral apparatus comprising:

a connecting unit, adapted to connect to a host computer;

a first control unit adapted to, in response to a request which is issued from the host computer, control said connecting unit to notify the host computer of response data in a case where the response data has been prepared and to control said connecting unit to notify the host computer of the fact that a response cannot be made in a case where the response data is not prepared yet;

a second control unit, adapted to, in response to a request which is issued from the host computer, control said connecting unit to notify the host computer of the absence of data to be sent; and

a switching unit, adapted to switch said first control unit and said second control unit in accordance with a status of said peripheral apparatus.

Claim 39 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 38, further comprising a second connecting unit, which is different from said connecting unit, for connecting a host computer,

wherein, in a case of processing data from said second connecting unit, said switching unit switches to said second control unit.

Claim 40 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said first control unit notifies the host computer of response data by a data packet, notifies the host computer of the fact that the response cannot be made by an Nak packet, and notifies the host computer of the absence of the data to be sent by a blank packet.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A peripheral apparatus comprising:

a connecting unit, adapted to connect to a host computer;

a first control unit, adapted to, in response to a request which is issued from the host computer, control said connecting unit to send response data to the host computer in a case where the response data has been prepared and to control said connecting unit to notify the host computer of the fact that a response cannot be made in a case where the response data is not prepared yet;

a second control unit, adapted to, in response to a request which is issued from the host computer, control said connecting unit to send a blank packet to the host computer; and

a switching unit, adapted to switch said first control unit and said second control unit in accordance with a status of said peripheral apparatus.

Claim 42 (previously presented): A method of operation of a peripheral apparatus that has a connecting unit and first and second control units, said method comprising the steps of:

connecting to a host computer, using the connecting unit;

in response to a request which is issued from the host computer, the first control unit controlling the connecting unit to notify the host computer of response data in a case where the response data has been prepared and controlling the connecting unit to notify the host computer of the fact that a response cannot be made in a case where the response data is not prepared yet;

in response to a request which is issued from the host computer, the second control unit controlling the connecting unit to notify the host computer of the absence of data to be sent; and

switching the first control unit and the second control unit in accordance with a status of the peripheral apparatus.

Claim 43 (previously presented):　　A method of oeprating a peripheral apparatus that has a connecting unit and first and second control units, said method comprising the steps of:

connecting to a host computer;

in response to a request which is issued from the host computer, the first control unit controlling the connecting unit to send response data to the host computer in a case where the response data has been prepared and controlling the connecting unit to notify the host computer of the fact that a response cannot be made in a case where the response data is not prepared yet;

in response to a request which is issued from the host computer, the second control unit controlling the connecting unit to send blank packet to the host computer; and

switching the first control unit and the second control unit in accordance with a status of the peripheral apparatus.